Osama Bin Laden’s Ideology

Osama Bin Laden saw the US and its allies as being responsible for damage done to Muslims. Having taken part in the war against the soviets his eyes were opened to tyrannical regimes in the Middle East, funded and supported by the US. He used this position to justify terror against enemies of Islam. He thinks that it is an appropriate target for aggression because they “sent tens of thousands of troops to the land of the two holy mosques” and its meddling in politics and support of tyrannical regimes in control. His perception of America shows that it is just in his eyes to retaliate against oppression as he sees it. The US is responsible and so violent action is justified.

If there is any connective tissue in Bin Laden’s conflation of major issues, it is oil. He thinks that in wars we have descended into decadence and oppression, a political opinion clearly informed by religion. He blames the United Nations of killing and murdering his brothers, a political opinion held wherein he is persecuted for Islam. The center piece is that all this killing is for oil. He claims that they (the US) strip them (the Islamists) of their natural resources and oil. And sees himself as similarly persecuted over religion. That

it is under attack. Perhaps because it would make the area easier to get to for its resources is a byproduct.

Osama Bin Laden believes that he is oppressed by United States. It is funny that he came to his realization about this while fighting the Soviet Union, because his ideology seems like the same seed that led to the Russian Communist revolution, a fight against the Tsar. Perhaps it is a stretch to say to be careful when you fight the monsters lest you become one here, but his rhetoric is similar to revolutionary Russia and his aggression towards the West bears a resemblance as well. He sees a bipolar world of Islam and those who support tyrannical regimes backed by the US . Ultimately his actions are to ensure Islam thrives through terrorism.